

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 102004027236.0 filed June 3, 2004. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/EP2005/052131 filed May 11, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Please amend the second paragraph on page 1, lines 11 to 37, as follows:

--Capsular equatorial rings are used for stabilizing the capsular bag in the eye. They are fitted as implants into the intact capsular bag and, for example after removal of the natural lens of an eye, are used to support the capsular tissue. After removal of the natural lens, for example on account of pronounced opacity, it is necessary that the opened capsular bag remains substantially in its original shape and in this way facilitates the implantation of an artificial intraocular lens. In cataract

surgery, however, removal of the natural lens may result in damage to the zonular fiber tissue which secures the outside of the capsular bag in the region of its equator inside the eye. In order to avoid the associated deformations of the capsular bag or excessive stressing of the zonular fibers remaining undamaged, it is known from FR-A 2754173 to implant a capsular equatorial ring of the aforementioned type in the opened capsular bag. The capsular equatorial ring remains within the capsular bag during the operation and generally also after the insertion of an intraocular lens, and it presses against the tissue surrounding it in a ring shape. It is also known, from FR-A 2754173, that a capsular equatorial ring can be comprised, at least in part, of water-absorbable material, in particular HEMA/MMA copolymer, and can be impregnated with an aqueous or water-soluble medicament.--